

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9910
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00806

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, LI
SUBJECT: LIBERIAN DIPLOMAT'S VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED ISSUES

REF: USUN 751

1. MISOFF (GRAHAM) MET WITH LIBERIAN MISOFF MOLIVEE
PERRY MARCH 6 TO DISCUSS THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM).
THE QUESTIONS WERE THE SAME ONES POSED TO JUAN BLANCO OF
CUBA LAST WEEK. MOST OF THE ANSWERS, UNDERSTANDABLY,
WERE DIFFERENT.

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2. WHAT IS THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)? UNLIKE
BLANCO, PERRY OFFERED NO CLEAR PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT OF
WHY THE NAM EXISTED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF A COMMON NAM
IDEOLOGICAL VIEW, MUCH LESS THE NEED TO UNITE AGAINST
US-IMPOSED OBSTACLES TO WORLD PROGRESS. PERRY DESCRIBED
THE NAM MORE AS A TACTICAL DEVICE TO (A) INSULATE THE
DEVELOPING WORLD FROM SUPERPOWER CONFLICT; AND (B) PRO-

VIDE A MORE COHESIVE VOTING BLOC TO PRESS FOR THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT DISPARATE STATES LIKE LIBERIA AND CUBA SOUGHT COMMON POSITIONS IN THE NAM MUCH LIKE OLD-LINE SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS AND EASTERN LIBERALS JOINED FORCES IN THE U.S. DEMOCRATIC PARTY -- A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE DESIGNED FOR LIMITED POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. IN THIS VEIN, PERRY SAID THERE WAS NOT MUCH "PARTY DISCIPLINE" IN THE NAM. LIBERIA WAS NOT THE ONLY NAM MEMBER WILLING TO AGREE TO A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AT A NAM MEETING BUT THEN, WITH MINIMAL EMBARRASSMENT, VOTING AGAINST IT AT THE UN (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PALESTINE).

3. LEFTWARD DRIFT IN THE NAM? PERRY OFFERED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH "NON-ALIGNED" LEFT IN THE NAM BUT DOWNPLAYED THE RISKS OF A CUBAN CHAIRMANSHIP. IN ESSENCE, HE SAID THAT THE NAM HAD BECOME SO UNWIELDLY THAT NOBODY, NOT EVEN THE ACTIVIST CUBANS, COULD SHOVE IT ONTO A NARROWER, NATIONALLY-CONCEIVED COURSE.

4. NAM IMPACT AT THE UNITED NATIONS. PERRY WAS NOT AWARE OF A SINGLE INSTANCE WHERE THE NAM'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NACC) IN NEW YORK HAD HAD SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE OR RESOLUTION. REGIONAL GROUPS WERE MORE IMPORTANT. THE NACC'S PRIMARY FUNCTION WAS TO DEVELOP AGENDAS FOR NAM MEETINGS.
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5. PUERTO RICO. PERRY LENT WEIGHT TO THE CUBAN VIEW THAT THE NAM DID NOT ACCEPT THE US POSITION. "HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO ARGUE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD AND NOT IN THE OTHER?"

6. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT PERRY FAIRLY REPRESENTS HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITIONS, THE OVERALL IMPRESSION ONE GATHERS IS THAT LIBERIA IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED WITH DEFINING FOR ITSELF ANY SORT OF IDEOLOGICAL BASIS FOR THE NAM -- NOT THE ORIGINAL NON-ALIGNED PHILOSOPHY OF BANDUNG AND CERTAINLY NOT THE CUBAN VIEW THAT THE NAM IS A VEHICLE FOR ATTAINING GLOBAL SOCIALIST OBJECTIVES. LIBERIAN REACTION TO IDEOLOGUES AND ACTIVISTS IN THE NAM SEEMS A MIXTURE OF APPREHENSION, BOREDOM AND BEWILDERMENT. LIBERIA SEEMS TO VIEW THE NAM AS A SOMETIMES USEFUL TOOL TO AMPLIFY THIRD WORLD LOBBYING POWER ON ISSUES, CHIEFLY ECONOMIC, OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO LIBERIA. ON OTHER ISSUES, LIBERIA SEEMS WILLING TO GO ALONG, WARILY WATCHING THE IDEOLOGUES AND ACTIVISTS, NOT WANTING TO APPEAR OUT OF STEP, AND TRUSTING THAT THE NAM IS NOW SO BIG AND AMORPHOUS THAT THE FIRE-BREATHERS

ARE SWALLOWED UP IN THE LONG RUN. YOUNG

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